AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

In The Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical agent having the formula

Carrier — Linker — Peptide

wherein Peptide is a peptide having the formula aa_n where n is an integer • 40 ;

wherein Carrier comprises an aryl or alkyl group of sufficient length or steric bulk to inhibit rapid enzymatic degradation of the active peptide species and is a member selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3-OH-cinnamoyl, 3,4-OH-cinnamoyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl, 3-methoxycinnamoyl, 3,4-dimethoxycinnamoyl, 3,4,5-trimethoxy-cinnamoyl, *t*-butoxy-carbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, pivaloyl, N-9-fluorenylethoxycarbonyl, fumaroyl, and combinations thereof; and

wherein Linker is a member selected from the group consisting of C5 to C16 lipidic chains, 8-amino-3,6-dioxaoctanoic acid, a peptide of less than 4 residues, and combinations thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1 wherein Linker is a peptide member selected from the group consisting of natural peptides, pseudo peptides of less than 4 residues and peptide mimics of less than 4 residues.

3. (Original) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1, wherein n is an integer of from 3 to 6.

4. (Original) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1, wherein n is 5.

5. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1, wherein Peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1.

6. (Original) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1 wherein Carrier is a member selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyl, 3-OH-cinnamoyl, 3,4-OH-cinnamoyl, 3-methoxycinnamoyl, 3,4-dimethoxycinnamoyl, and 3,4,5-trimethoxy-cinnamoyl.

7. (Original) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1 wherein Carrier is cinnamoyl.

8. (Original) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1 wherein Linker is a -C6 or C8 acidic moiety.

9. (Original) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1 wherein Linker is G. $(CH_2\text{-}CH_2)$G.

10. (Original) The pharmaceutical agent of claim 1 wherein Peptide is an epitope or an immune sequence characteristic of an infectious, viral or cancerous disease.

11. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for administration to a patient in need thereof comprising a pharmaceutical agent according to claim 1 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants.

12. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11 wherein the composition is formulated for oral administration.

13. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11 wherein the composition is formulated for parenteral administration.

14. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11 wherein the composition is formulated for intravenous administration.

15. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11 wherein the composition releases a biologically active form of the pharmaceutical agent into the patent's system at physiologically effective levels over a period of time of up to twelve hours.

16. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 11 wherein the composition releases a biologically active form of the pharmaceutical agent into the patient's system at physiologically effective levels over a period of time of up to twenty-four hours.

17. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein Peptide is an epitope or an immune sequence characteristic of an infectious, viral or cancerous disease.

18. - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical agent having the formula:

Carrier — Linker — Peptide

wherein Peptide is a peptide having the formula aa_n where n is an integer • 40 ;

wherein Carrier comprises an aryl or alkyl group of sufficient length or steric bulk to inhibit rapid enzymatic degradation of the active peptide species and is a chemical moiety selected from the group consisting of a cinnamoyl, a benzoyl, a phenylacetyl, a 3-OH-cinnamoyl, a 3,4-OH-cinnamoyl, a 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl, a 3-methoxycinnamoyl, a 3,4-dimethoxycinnamoyl, a 3,4,5-trimethoxy-cinnamoyl, a *t*-butoxy-carbonyl, a benzyloxycarbonyl, a pivaloyl, a N-9-fluorenylethoxycarbonyl, and a fumaroyl; and

wherein Linker comprises a chemical moiety selected from the group consisting of a C5 to C16 lipidic chains, a 8-amino-3,6-dioxaoctanoic acid and polymers thereof, a natural peptide of less than 4 residues, and combinations thereof.

26. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical agent having the formula

Carrier — Linker — Peptide

wherein Peptide is a peptide having the amino acid structure of SEQ ID NO.1;

wherein Carrier comprises a cinnamoyl moiety; and

wherein Linker is a member selected from the group consisting of a -C6 to -C16 lipidic moiety.